

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 968

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

STUDENTS: Provides relative to dropout prevention and recovery

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:221.4(A) and to enact R.S. 17:221.6, relative to the dropout
3 prevention and recovery program; to provide with respect to the requirements for
4 such a program; to provide with respect to a development of an individual graduation
5 plan for each eligible student enrolled in such a program; to provide for funding
6 through the minimum foundation program formula; to provide for definitions; and
7 to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:221.4(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:221.6 is
10 hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §221.4. Dropout prevention and recovery program

12 A. This Section shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana School
13 Dropout Prevention and Recovery Act of 2008 2014".

14 * * *

15 §221.6. Dropout recovery programs; individual graduation plan; requirements;
16 definitions

17 A. Each school district and charter school that provides instruction to high
18 school students may offer a dropout recovery program for eligible students.

1 B. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's prescribed
2 standards and achievement testing requirements shall apply to dropout recovery
3 programs.

4 C. The dropout recovery program shall do the following:

5 (1) Make available appropriate and sufficient supports for students, including
6 tutoring, career counseling, and college counseling.

7 (2) Comply with federal and state laws governing students with disabilities.

8 (3) Meet state requirements for high school graduation.

9 D. Each eligible student enrolled in a dropout recovery program shall have
10 an individual graduation plan developed by the student's assigned academic coach.

11 The plan shall include the following elements:

12 (1) The start date and anticipated end date of the plan.

13 (2) Courses to be completed by the student during the academic year.

14 (3) Whether courses will be taken sequentially or concurrently.

15 (4) State competency exams to be taken, as necessary.

16 (5) Expectations for satisfactory monthly progress.

17 (6) Expectations for contact with the student's assigned academic coach.

18 E. The monthly participation in a dropout recovery program shall be reported
19 for funding purposes to the state Department of Education on or before the tenth
20 school day of the following month. Funding for dropout recovery programs shall be
21 provided through the minimum foundation program formula. Monthly participation
22 calculations shall include:

23 (1) Newly enrolled students who have an individual graduation plan on file
24 on or before the first school day of the month.

25 (2) Students who met the expectations for satisfactory monthly progress for
26 the month.

27 (3) Students who did not meet the expectations for satisfactory monthly
28 progress for the month but did meet the expectations one of the two previous months.

1 (4) Students who met expectations for program reentry in the revised
2 individual graduation plan in the previous month.

3 F. School districts and charter schools may contract with an educational
4 management organization to provide a dropout recovery program. If contracting
5 with an educational management organization, the school district or charter school
6 shall ensure that all of the following requirements are met:

7 (1) The educational management organization is accredited by a regional
8 accrediting body.

9 (2) Teachers provided by the educational management organization hold a
10 current teaching license from any state, and teachers of core subjects are highly
11 qualified in the subjects to which they are assigned.

12 (3) The educational management organization has provided one or more
13 dropout recovery programs for at least two years prior to providing a program
14 pursuant to this Section.

15 G. Dropout recovery programs shall be classified as alternative programs.

16 H. Entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs may
17 conduct outreach to encourage students who are not enrolled in a school district or
18 charter school in this state to return to school. Entities that are contracted to provide
19 dropout recovery programs shall not conduct advertising or marketing campaigns
20 directed at students who are currently enrolled in a school district or charter school,
21 or undertake any other activity that encourages students who are enrolled in a school
22 district or charter school to stop attending school in order to qualify for a dropout
23 recovery program.

24 I. For the purposes of this Section:

25 (1) "Eligible student" means a student who is not enrolled in a school district
26 or charter school and who has been withdrawn from a school district or charter
27 school for at least thirty days, unless a school administrator determines that the
28 student is unable to participate in other district programs.

1 (2) "Satisfactory monthly progress" means an amount of progress that is
2 measurable on a monthly basis and that, if continued for a full twelve months, would
3 result in the same amount of academic credit being awarded to the student as would
4 be awarded to a student in a traditional education program who completes a full
5 school year. Satisfactory monthly progress may include a lesser required amount of
6 progress for the first two months that a student participates in the program.

7 (3) "Academic coach" is an adult who assists students in selecting courses
8 needed to meet graduation requirements, monitors student pace and progress through
9 the program, and conducts regular pace and progress interventions.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Leger

HB No. 968

Abstract: Provides with respect to dropout recovery programs.

Proposed law provides that each school district and charter school that provides instruction to high school students may offer a dropout recovery program for eligible students. Provides that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's prescribed standards and achievement testing requirements apply to dropout recovery programs.

Provides that the dropout recovery programs shall make available appropriate and sufficient supports for students, including tutoring, career counseling and college counseling, comply with federal and state laws governing students with disabilities, and meet state requirements for high school graduation.

Provides that each eligible student enrolled in a dropout recovery program shall have an individual graduation plan developed by the student's assigned academic coach. Specifies certain elements to be included in the plan.

Provides that the monthly participation in a dropout recovery program shall be reported for funding purposes to the state Dept. of Education on or before the 10th day of the following month. Provides that funding for such programs shall be provided through the minimum foundation program formula (MFP). Requires that monthly participation calculations shall include specified components.

Authorizes school districts and charter schools to contract with an educational management organization to provide a dropout recovery program and if so, shall ensure that the educational management organization is accredited by a regional accrediting body, that teachers provided by the educational management organization hold a current teaching license and that teachers of core subjects are highly qualified in those subjects, and that the organization has provided one or more dropout recovery programs for at least two years.

Provides that dropout recovery programs shall be classified as alternative programs. Further provides that entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs may conduct

outreach to encourage students who are not enrolled in a school district or charter school in this state to return to school. Prohibits entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs from conducting advertising or marketing campaigns directed at students who are enrolled in a school district or charter school, or undertake any other activity that encourages students who are enrolled in a school district or charter school to stop attending school in order to qualify for a dropout recovery program.

Defines "eligible student", "satisfactory monthly progress", and "academic coach" for purposes of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 17:221.4(A); Adds R.S. 17:221.6)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Deletes requirement that dropout recovery programs provide curriculum aligned to standards adopted by BESE and the authorization for the curriculum to be delivered online.
2. Deletes requirement that dropout recovery programs provide standardized tests required by state and federal law.
3. Requires students in dropout recovery programs to have an individual graduation plan instead of a written learning plan and requires that such plan be developed by the student's assigned academic coach instead of assigned mentor.
4. Requires that monthly participation in a dropout recovery program be reported for funding purposes to the state Dept. of Education on or before the 10th day of the following month instead of being recorded on or before the 10th day of each month and reported to the department.
5. Deletes provisions with regard to recording and calculating student attendance for students participating in dropout recovery programs.
6. Deletes requirement that school districts and charter schools are responsible for tuition and fees for students participating in dropout recovery programs.
7. Provides that dropout recovery programs are classified as alternative programs instead of alternative schools.
8. Provides for determinations made by school administrators instead of school districts with regard to student eligibility for participation in a dropout recovery program.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds that funding for dropout recovery programs shall be provided through the minimum foundation program formula (MFP).
2. Adds requirement that a school district ensure that an educational management organization has provided one or more dropout recovery programs for at least two years prior to providing a program pursuant to proposed law.
3. Adds definition of "academic coach" for purposes of proposed law.